



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Interim Action/Proposed Plan Issued for C-Reactor Groundwater Operable Unit

The United States Department of Energy (US DOE) will release an Interim Action Proposed Plan on March 18, 2004 describing the proposed interim remedial action for the C-Reactor Groundwater (CRGW) Operable Unit (OU) at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The plan will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The public comment period is scheduled for March 18, 2004 to April 16, 2004. This document was completed to meet the terms of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), a law governing the investigation and cleanup of waste units. US DOE has worked with the United States Environmental Protection Agency- Region IV (US EPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

The US DOE, US EPA and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with the unit and are recommending the following interim actions for the CRGW:

The preferred interim alternative for the CRGW source unit is Electric Resistance Heating (ERH) with Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE). ERH uses the electrical resistance of soil to heat the soil in situ by passing an electrical current through the soil. The heat vaporizes volatile organic contaminants in the soil. These vapors are withdrawn by the SVE system and treated and discharged per an air quality control permit.

An interim action is proposed because of the uncertainty of the groundwater remediation within the overall unit remediation strategy.

The CRGW is located at the SRS in Barnwell County, South Carolina. The trichloroethylene (TCE) vadose zone source unit, which is the subject of the interim remedial action being proposed in this document, consists only of TCE contaminated soil above the groundwater portion of the CRGW OU. A remedy decision dealing with contamination within the groundwater portion of this OU is not being made at this time, but will be proposed for public comment in the future.

Comments on the Interim Action Proposed Plan are requested by April 16, 2004. Upon completion of the public comment period, a Responsiveness Summary that addresses public comments will be prepared. The Responsiveness Summary will be made available with the Interim Record of Decision and will be sent to each person who submits comments.

Copies of the Interim Action Proposed Plan are available in the administrative record file, which also contains the RCRA Facility Investigation/Remedial Investigation Report with Baseline Risk Assessment report for this unit. The administrative record file is available in the information repositories listed below:

- DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; and
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC.

Hard copies of the Interim Action Proposed Plan are available at the following locations:

- Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and
- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

Comments on the Interim Action Proposed Plan may be sent to Mr. Jim Moore. For additional information or to request a public meeting, contact:

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The SRS Environmental Bulletin

For more information on this or other
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SRS, please contact:

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